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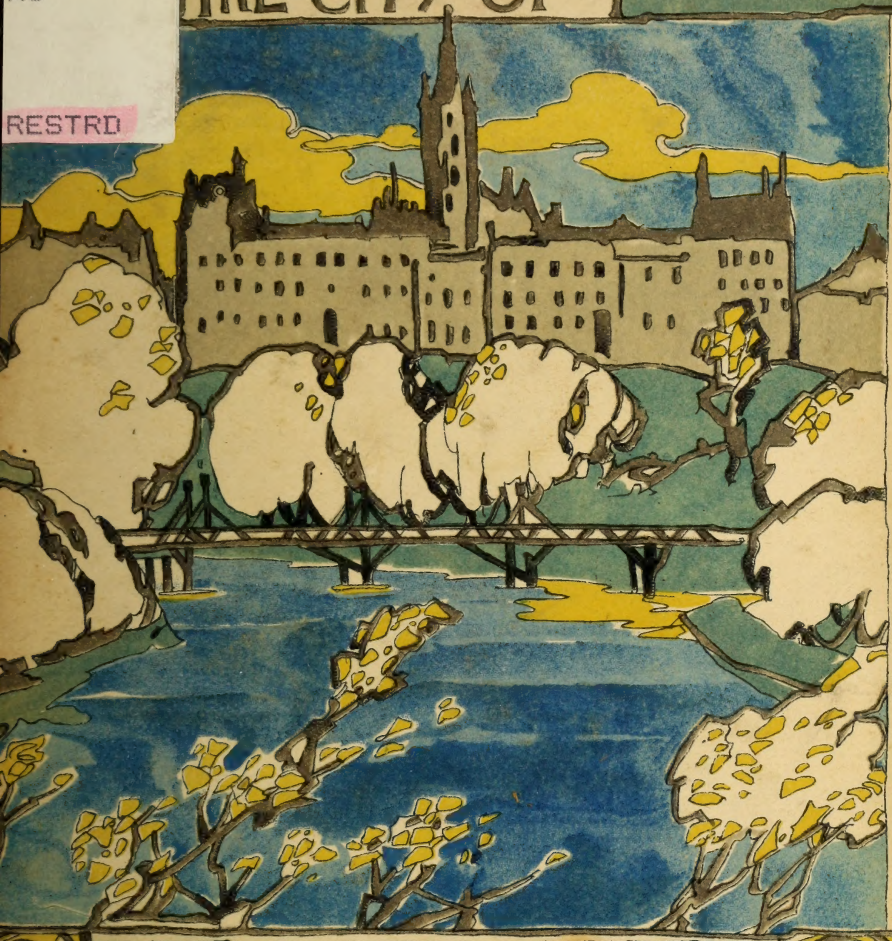
THE · CITY · OF



THE · WEST

WITH · DRAWINGS · BY · JESSIE · M · KING

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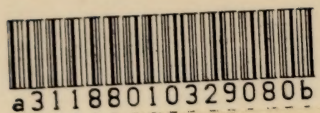
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THE CITY OF THE WEST

BY JESSIE M KING

1911

T. N. FOULIS · EDINBURGH AND LONDON

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II.

SIR JOHN MOORE, THE HERO OF CORUNNA, WAS BORN IN THE YEAR 1761 IN A BACK ROOM OF THIS OLD HOUSE AT THE CORNER OF TRONGATE AND NELSON STREET

SIR·JOHN·MOORE'S·BIRTHPLACE·

III.

THIS CLOSE WAS SITUATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE HIGH STREET ABOVE BELL STREET. IT WAS ERECTED IN THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

A · CLOSE · IN · HIGH · STREET

IV.

THE TONTINE WAS ORIGINALLY AN ASSEMBLY HALL ERECTED BY A COMPANY IN 1782 ON THE TONTINE SYSTEM. THE CROSS STEEPLE IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE OLD TOLBOOTH BUILT IN 1626, WHICH DID DUTY FIRST AS COUNCIL CHAMBER AND LATER AS PRISON. NEAR BY STOOD THE OLD CROSS, REMOVED IN 1659.

TONTINE AND CROSS STEEPLE

V.

THE MOST PROMINENT FEATURE OF THE OLD VILLAGE OF GORBALS WAS THE BARONIAL HALL OF SIR GEORGE ELPHINSTONE, PROVOST OF GLASGOW IN 1605, AND LORD JUSTICE CLERK 1625-1628. THIS HOUSE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ADDED TO BY VISCOUNT BELHAVEN WHO ACQUIRED THE ESTATE FROM THE ELPHINSTONE FAMILY.

A·GABLE·IN·GORBALS

VI.

THE OLD BUILDING KNOWN AS THE DUKE'S LODGING WAS SITUATED ABOUT THE SPOT WHERE DRYGATE AND ROTTENROW MEET THE HIGH STREET. THE PROPERTY OF THE STEWARTS OF MINTO, IT WAS BOUGHT IN 1605 BY THE MONTROSE FAMILY WHO OWNED IT UNTIL 1746. IT TOOK ITS NAME FROM JAMES, FIRST DUKE OF MONTROSE.

THE·DUKE'S·LODGING·

VII.

THE LAIGH KIRK WAS IN PRE-REFORMATION DAYS THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST MARY, STANDING IN TRONGATE. ON THE REMOVAL OF ITS PAPAL FURNISHINGS AND DECORATIONS IT WAS CALLED THE LAIGH KIRK, *i.e.*, THE LOW OR PROTESTANT CHURCH, AND AFTERWARDS, FROM ITS PROXIMITY TO THE PUBLIC WEIGHING PLACE, THE TRON KIRK.

LAIGH · KIRK · CLOSE ·

VIII.

THE SUGAR HOUSE IN THE GALLOWGATE, KNOWN AS THE EASTER SUGAR HOUSE TO DISTINGUISH IT FROM THE OTHERS, WAS BUILT ABOUT 1669. BY THE MIDDLE OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY THE GLASGOW SUGAR REFINING TRADE HAD BECOME EXCEEDINGLY PROSPEROUS, NO LESS THAN FOUR OTHER REFINERIES FLOURISHING IN THE CITY.

THE·SVGAR·HOVSE···GALLOWGATE

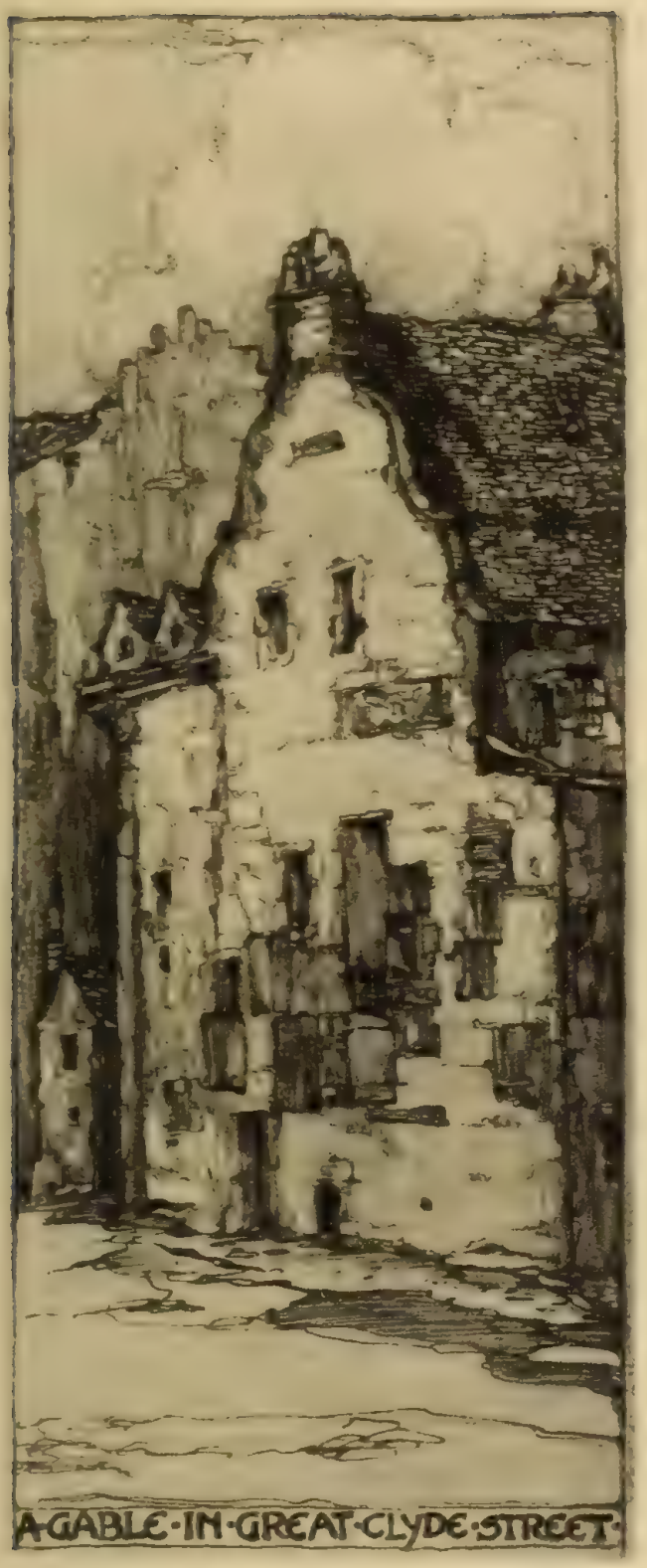
IX.

THIS COURT ENTERED FROM NO. 157 HIGH STREET. THE HOUSE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE FAMILY MANSION OF GEORGE PORTERFIELD, PROVOST OF GLASGOW IN 1645. IT WAS KNOWN AS THE HOUSE OF PORTERFIELD.

A·COVRT·IN·A·BACK·LAND·IN·HIGH·STREET·

X.

THIS OLD HOUSE WAS SITUATED AT THE CORNER OF STOCKWELL STREET AND GREAT CLYDE STREET. THE OLDER PART OF THE BUILDING, SHOWN BEHIND THE OTHER, IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE OLD CUSTOM HOUSE, WHICH STOOD NEAR THE BRIDGE OF GLASGOW.



A·GABLE·IN·GREAT·CLYDE·STREET·

XI.

IN THE TRONGATE STOOD FROM THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY THE TOWN WEIGHING MACHINE, OR TRON, AND HERE ALSO WERE SITUATED MANY OF THE HOUSES OF THE WEALTHIER BURGESSES. THE ORIGINAL NAME OF THE STREET WAS ST THANEW'S GAIT.

A·HOVSE·IN·THE·TRONGATE·

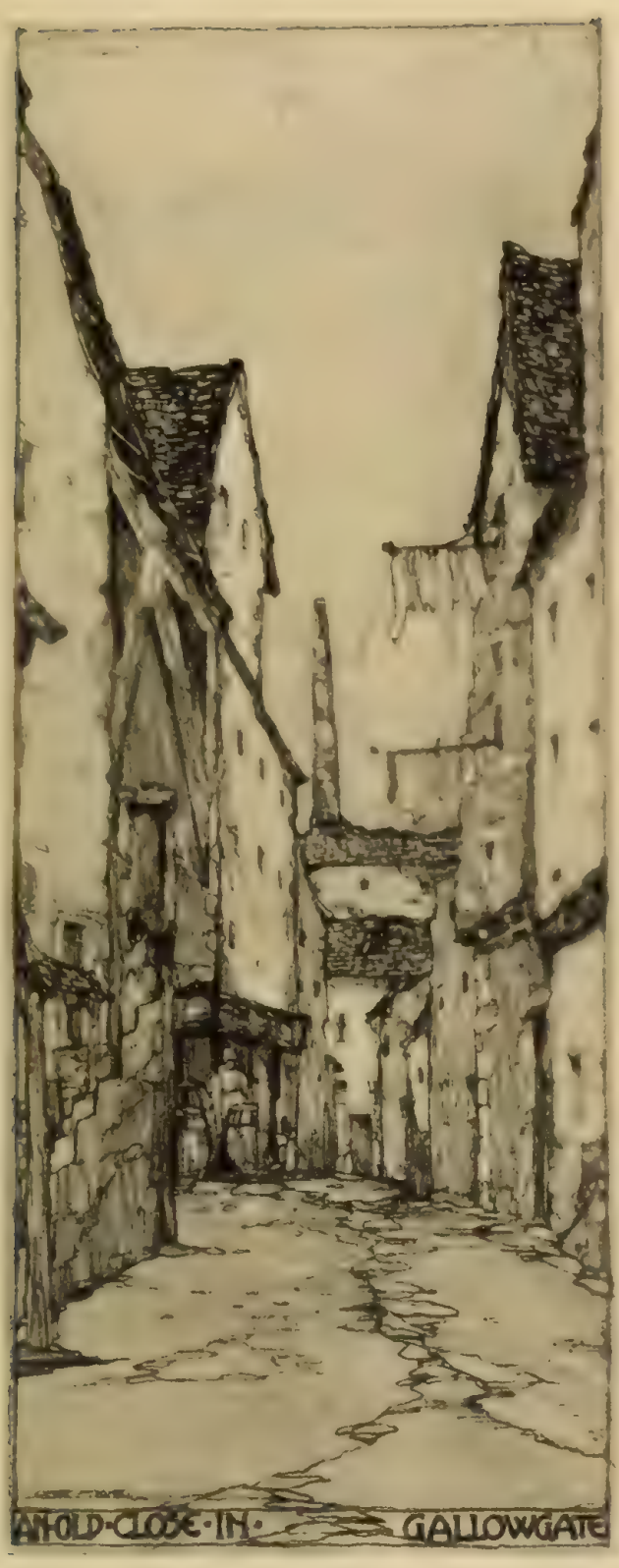
XII.

THE SALTMARKET WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE FULLER'S ROAD (WALCARGAIT) ON ACCOUNT OF THE SCOURERS OF CLOTH WHO PLIED THEIR TRADE ON THE BANKS OF THE MOLENDINAR BURN. IN LATER TIMES THE SALT MERCHANTS HAD THEIR BOOTHS THERE AND FROM THEM THE STREET HAS TAKEN ITS NAME.

AN·OLD·COURT·IN·THE·SALTMARKET

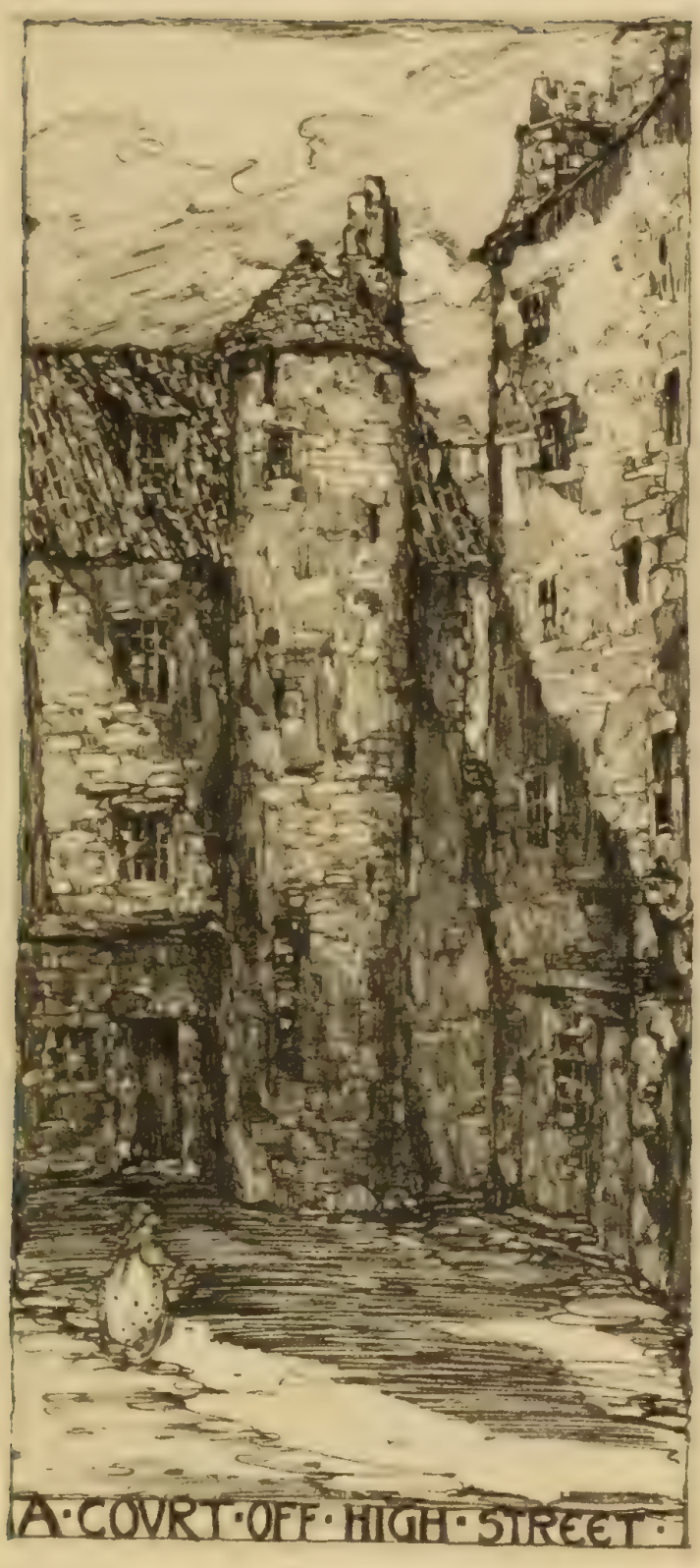
XIII.

AN OLD CLOSE SITUATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE GALLOWGATE. HERE STOOD SOME OF THE LAST SURVIVING OLD WOODEN HOUSES IN GLASGOW, MOST OF WHICH WERE SWEPT AWAY BY THE GREAT FIRES OF THE YEARS 1652 AND 1677.


A·OLD·CLOSE·IN·
GALLOWGATE

XIV.

THE HIGH STREET, OR GREAT STREET, WAS THE OLDEST AND FOR SEVERAL CENTURIES THE MOST IMPORTANT STREET IN GLASGOW. THE ILLUSTRATION GIVES A REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE OF ONE OF THE OLD COURTS ENTERING FROM IT.



A·COVRT·OFF·HIGH·STREET·

XV.

STANDING AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE OLD GLASGOW BRIDGE THE OLDER NAME OF GORBALS WAS BRIDGEND. DURING THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY THE VILLAGE WAS LARGELY OCCUPIED BY WEAVERS. IT HAS NOW BEEN SWALLOWED UP BY GOVAN, ALTHOUGH THE NAME OF THE PARISH STILL SURVIVES.

OLD·HOUSES·IN·MAIN·STREET·GORBALS·

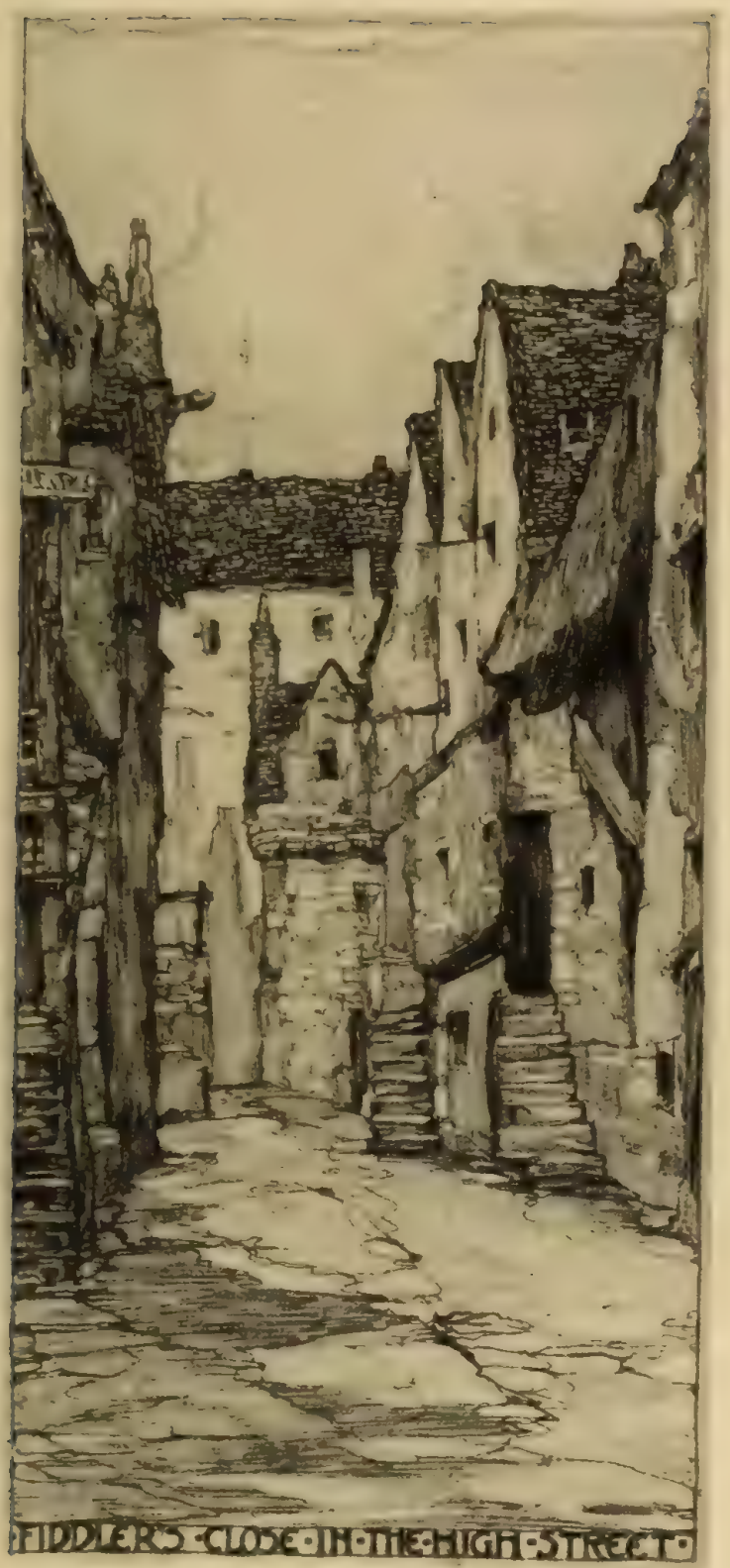
XVI.

THE LANDS ADJOINING THE GALLOWMUIR WERE ACQUIRED IN 1705 BY MR JOHN WALKINSHAW, WHO BUILT THE VILLAGE OF BORROWFIELD OR BARROWFIELD, NOW BRIDGETON. THE ESTATE BECAME IN 1724 THE PROPERTY OF THE TOWN, WHO SOLD IT A FEW YEARS LATER FOR FEUING PURPOSES TO JOHN ORR OF BARROWFIELD.

BARROWFIELD · HOUSE · · ·

XVII.

A PICTURESQUE ALTHOUGH DILAPIDATED CLOSE WHICH ENTERED FROM THE WEST SIDE OF THE HIGH STREET. IT CONTAINED IN ITS BETTER DAYS THE RESIDENCES OF SMALL BURGESSES. THE NAME, "FIDDLER'S CLOSE," IS SAID TO BE DERIVED FROM THE CALLING OF SOME OF ITS EARLY OCCUPANTS.


FIDDLERS CLOSE OFF THE HIGH STREET

XVIII.

AN OLD CLOSE IN THE SALTMARKET IN WHICH A FEW WOODEN-FRONTED HOUSES SURVIVED UNTIL A LATE DATE. IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY ALL THE HARDWARE MERCHANTS HAD THEIR PLACES OF BUSINESS IN THIS LOCALITY.

A·CLOSE·IN·THE·SALTMARKET

XIX.

THE GALLOWGATE FORMERLY LED OUT TO A TRACT OF WASTE GROUND KNOWN AS GALLOW MOOR WHERE EVIL-DOERS WERE EXECUTED. THE NAME OF THE STREET DATES BACK FOR FULLY FOUR CENTURIES.

OLD·HOVSES·IN·GALLOWGATE

XX.

THESE OLD HOUSES, BOTH OF WHICH WERE OCCUPIED AS TAVERNS, STOOD NEAR THE CROSS ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE HIGH STREET. ON THE BUILDING TO THE RIGHT IS SEEN A SPECIMEN OF ONE OF THE ARCADES OR PIAZZAS, WHICH IN THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WERE TO BE FOUND IN THE FRONT OF ALMOST EVERY BUILDING NEAR THE CROSS.

A·TENEMELIT·OF·OLD·HOUSES·

XXI.

THE DRYGATE ON ACCOUNT OF ITS CLOSENESS TO THE CATHEDRAL WAS FORMERLY OCCUPIED CHIEFLY BY PREBENDAL MANSES AND THE RESIDENCES OF VARIOUS CHURCH OFFICIALS. THE BUILDING SHOWN TO THE LEFT OF THE DRAWING WAS AT ONE TIME A HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

THE·DRYGATE·

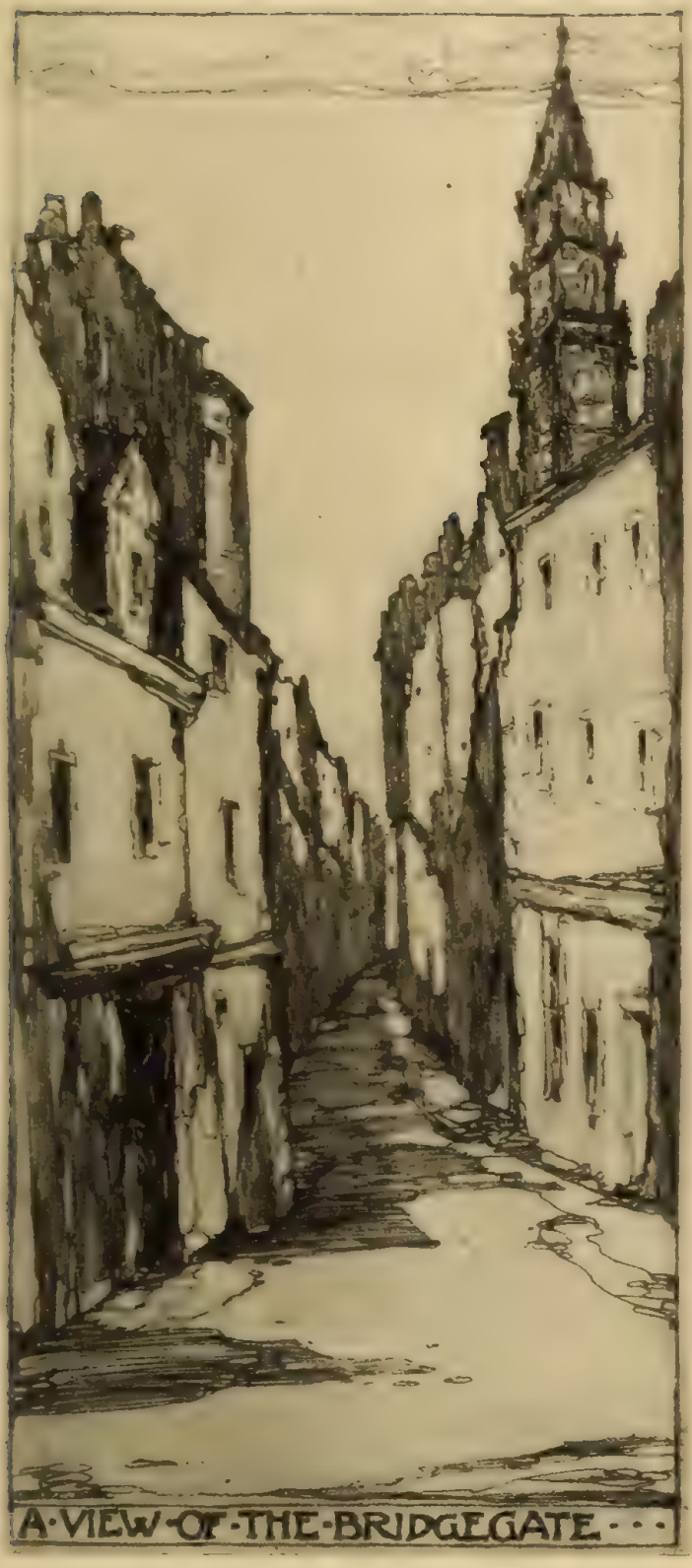
XXII.

BELL STREET, OR BELL'S WYND, BETWEEN THE HIGH STREET AND CANDLERIGGS, WAS BUILT TOWARDS THE END OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. IN IT FOR MANY YEARS WAS A WELL-KNOWN MEAT MARKET AND LATER THE POLICE OFFICE.

A·HOVSE·IN·BELL·STREET·

XXIII.

THE BRIDGEGATE WAS UNTIL THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ONE OF THE MOST FASHIONABLE QUARTERS OF THE CITY; IN IT RESIDED THE WEALTHIER MERCHANTS AND EVEN THE NOBILITY. THE STEEPLE SHOWN IN THE ILLUSTRATION IS THAT OF THE MERCHANTS' HALL, ERECTED IN 1659.



A·VIEW·OF·THE·BRIDGEGATE···

XXIV.

M'PHERSON STREET TAKES ITS NAME FROM JOHN M'PHERSON OF BLANTYRE, ON WHOSE LAND THE STREET WAS BUILT, AND WHOSE COAT OF ARMS IS TO BE SEEN ON THE HOUSE AT THE SOUTH CORNER FACING THE HIGH STREET. MANY OF THE HOUSES IN THIS STREET WERE DEMOLISHED WHEN THE EAST SIDE OF THE HIGH STREET WAS REBUILT.

A·HOUSE·IN·McPHERSON·STREET·

XXV.

STOCKWELL—THE WELL PROTECTED BY STOCKS OR STAKES—WAS IN OLDEN TIMES ONE OF THE CHIEF SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY FOR FISHERMEN AND BOATMEN ON ACCOUNT OF ITS PROXIMITY TO THE RIVER. ALTHOUGH THE WELL ITSELF WAS REMOVED MANY YEARS AGO ITS NAME STILL SURVIVES.

AN·OLD·TENEMENT·AT·THE·FOOT·OF·STOCKWELL·

THE · CITY · OF

THE · WEST

T · N · FOULIS · EDINBURGH · AND · LONDO